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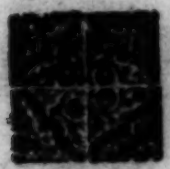
A DECLARATION BY THE KINGS MAJESTY, TO HIS SUBJECTS OF THE KINGDOMES OF SCOTLAND, ENGLAND, and IRELAND.



EDINBVRGH,
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BY THE KING

HIS Majeſty taking in conſideration that merciful diſpenſation of divine providence, by wch he hath been recovered out of the ſnare of evil counſell, and having attained ſo full perſwaſion & confidence of the loialty of his people in *Scotland*, with whom hee hath

too long ſtood at a diſtance,& of the righteouſnes of their cauſe, as to joyn in one Covenant with them,and to caſt himſelf and his intereſts wholly upon God, and in all matters Civil to follow the advice of his Parliament, and ſuch as ſhall be intruſted by them, & in all matters Eccleſiaſtick the advice of the Generall Aſſembly & their Commiſsioners; And being ſenſible of his duty toGod, & deſirous to approve himſelf to the conſciences of all his good ſubjects, and to ſtop the mouths of his and their enemies and traducers, doth inreference to his former deportments, and as to his reſolutions for the future, Declare as follows.

Though his Majeſty as a dutiful Son be obliged to honour the memory of his Royall Father, and have in eſtimation the perſon of his Mother, yet doth hee deſire to be deeply humbled and afflicted in ſpirit before God, becauſe of his Fathers hearkning to & following evil counſels,and his oppoſition to the work of Reformation and to the Solemn League & Covenant, by which ſo much of the blood of the Lords People hath been ſhed in theſe Kingdomes, And for the Idolatrie of his

Mother

Mother, the Toleration whereof in the Kings houſe, as it was matter of great ſtumbling to all the Proteſtant Churches, ſo could it not but be a high provocation againſt him, who is a *jealous* God, viſiting the ſinnes of the fathers upon the Children: And albeit his Majeſty might extenuat his former carriage and actions in following of the advice and walking in the way of thoſe who are oppoſite to the Covenant, and to the work of God, and might excuſe his delaying to give ſatisfaction to the *juſt* & neceſſary deſires of the Kirk and Kingdom of *Scotland*, from his education and age and evill counſel & company, and from the ſtrange and inſolent proceedings of Sectaries againſt his Royal Father, and in reference to religion and the Ancient Government of the Kingdom of *England*, to which he hath the undoubted right of Succeſsion, Yet knowing that he hath to do with God, Hee doeth ingenuouſly acknowledge all his owne ſinnes and all the ſinnes of his Fathers Houſe, craving pardon, and hoping for mercie, and reconciliation, through the blood of *Jeſus Chriſt*. And as he doth value the conſtant

addreſſes,

addreſſes, that were made by his People to the Throne of Grace on his behalf when he ſtood in oppoſition to the work of God, as a ſingular Teſtimony of long ſuffering patience and mercy upon the Lords part, & loyalty upon theirs, So doth he hope, and ſhall take it as one of the greateſt tokens of their love and affection to him and to his Government, that they will continue in prayer and ſupplication to God for him, that the Lord who ſpared and preſerved him to this day, notwithſtanding of all his own guiltineſſe, may be at peace with him, and give him to fear the Lord his God, and to ſerve him with a perfect heart, & with a willing mind all the dayes of his life.

And his Majeſty having upon full perſwaſion of the Iuſtice & equity of all the heads & articles thereof, now ſworn & ſubſcribed the national Covenant of the Kingdom of *Scotland*, & the ſolemn League and Covenant of the three Kingdoms of *Scotland*, *England* and *Ireland*, Doth Declare that he hath not ſworn & ſubſcribed theſe Covenants, & entred into the Oath of God with his people, upon any ſiniſter intention & crooked deſign for

attaining

taining his own ends, but ſo far as humane weakneſſe will permit in the truth and ſinceritie of his heart, and that he is firmly reſolved in the Lords ſtrength to adhere thereto, & to proſecute to the utmoſt of his power all the ends thereof, in his ſtation and calling, really, conſtantly & ſincerely all the dayes of his life: In order to which hee doth in the firſt place Profeſſe and Declare that hee wil have no enemies, but the enemies of the Covenant, & that he wil have no friends but the friends of the Covenant. And therefore as he doth now deteſt and abhor all Popery, Superſtition & Idolatry, together with Prelacy and all errors, hereſie, ſchiſm and profanenes, and reſolves not to tolerate, much leſſe allow any of theſe in any part of his Majeſties Dominions, but to oppoſe himſelfe thereto, and to endeavour the extirpation thereof to the utmoſt of his power; So doth he as a Chriſtian Exhort, and as a King Require that all ſuch of his ſubjects who have ſtood in oppoſition to the Solemn League and Covenant and work of Reformation, upon a pretence of Kingly intereſt, or any other pretext whatſoever, to lay down

their

their enmity againſt the Cauſe & people of God, and to ceaſe to preferre the intereſt of man to the intereſt of God, wch hath been one of thoſe things that hath occaſioned many troubles & calamities in theſe Kingdoms, and being inſiſted into, will be ſo far from eſtabliſhing of the Kings Throne, that it will prove an Idol of Iealouſie to provoke unto wrath him who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords: The King ſhal alwiſe eſteem them beſt ſervants, and moſt Loyal Subiects, who ſerve him & ſeek his greatneſſe in a right line of ſubordination unto God, giving unto God the things that are Gods, and unto *Ceſar* the things that are *Ceſares*, And reſolveth not to love, or countenance any, who have ſo little Conſcience and piety, as to follow his intreſts with a preiudice to the Goſpell and the Kingdome of *Jeſus Chriſt*, which he looks not upon as a dutie, but as flatterie, and driving of ſelf deſigns, under a pretence of maintaining Royall Authority and greatneſſe.

II. His Maieſty being convinced in conſcience, of the exceeding great ſinfulneſſe and unlawfulneſſe, of that Treatie and peace made with the blo-

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dy *Iriſh* Rebels, who treacherouſly ſhed the blood of ſo many of his faithfull and Loyall Subiects in *Ireland*, and of allowing unto them the liberty of the Popiſh Religion; for the which he doth from his heart deſire to be deeply humbled before the Lord; And likewiſe conſidereing how many breaches have been upon their part, Doth Declare the ſame to be voyd, And that his Majeſty is abſolved therefrom; being truly ſorry that he ſhould have ſought unto ſo unlawfull help for reſtoring of him to his Throne, and reſolving for the time to come, rather to chooſe affliction then ſin.

III. As his Majeſty did in the late Treaty with his people in this kingdom, agree to recall & annull all Commmiſsions againſt any of his Subiects, who did adhere to the Covenant, and Monarchicall Government in any of his kingdomes; ſo doth he now Declare, that by commiſsionating of ſome perſons by Sea, againſt the people of *England*, he did not intend dammage, or iniurie to his oppreſt and harmleſſe Subiects in that kingdom, who follow their trade of Merchandize in

their lawfull callings, but only the oppoſing and ſuppreſsing of thoſe who had uſurped the government, and not only barre him from his juſt right, but alſo exerciſe an arbitrary power over his people, in thoſe things which concern their perſons, conſciences and eſtates: And as ſince his coming into *Scotland*, he hath given no Commiſſions againſt any of his Subiects in *England* or *Ireland*, ſo he doth hereby Aſſure and Declare, that he will give none to their preiudice or dammage, and what ever ſhall be the wrongs of theſe uſurpers, that he will bee ſo farre from avenging theſe upon any who are free thereof, by interrupting and ſtoping the liberty of trade and Merchandize or otherwiſe, that he will ſeek their good, & to the utmoſt imploy his Royall power, that they may be protected and defended againſt the uniuſt violence of all men whatſoever. And albeit his Maieſty deſireth to conſtruct wel of the intentions of thoſe (in reference to his Maieſty) who have been active in Counſell or Arms againſt the Covenant; Yet being convinced that it doth conduce for the honour of God, the good of his

his cause, and his own honour and happi-
nesse, and for the peace and safety of these
Kingdoms, that such be not imploied in places
of power and trust, He doth Declare, that he
will not imploy, nor give Commissions to a-
ny such, until they have not only taken or re-
newed the Covenant, but also have given suf-
ficient evdiences of their integrity, carriage,
and affection to the work of Reformation, and
shall be declared capable of trust by the Parli-
ament of either Kingdom respective: And his
Majesty upon the same grounds, doth hereby
recal all Commissions given to any such per-
sons; conceiving all such persons will so much
tender a good understanding betwixt him &
his subjects, and the setling and preserving a
firme peace in these Kingdoms, that they will
not grudge nor repine at his Majesties reso-
lutions and proceedings herein, much less upon
discontent act any thing in a divided way un-
to the raising of new troubles; especially since
upon their pious and good deportment, there

is a regreſſe left unto them in manner above expreſſed.

And as his Majeſty hath given ſatisfaction to the juſt and neceſſary deſires of the Kirk & Kingdom of *Scotland*, So doth he hereby Aſſure and Declare that he is no leſſe willing and deſirous to give ſatisfaction to the juſt and neceſſary deſires of his good ſubiects in *England* and *Ireland*; and in token thereof, if the Houſes of Parliament of *England* ſitting in freedome ſhall think fit to preſent unto him, the propoſitions of peace agreed upon by both Kingdomes, he will not only accord to the ſame, and ſuch alterations thereanent as the Houſes of Parliament in regard of the conſtitution of affaires, and the good of his Majeſtie and his Kingdomes ſhal judge neceſſary, but do what is further neceſſarie, for proſecuting the ends of the Solemn League and Covenant, eſpecially in thoſe things which concerne the Reformation of the Church of *England* in Doctrine worſhip, diſcipline, and Government; that

not

not onely the directory of worſhip, the Confeſsion of Faith and Catechiſme, but alſo the propoſitions and directory for Church Government accorded upon by the Synod of Divines at *Weſtminſter* may be ſetled, and that the Church of *England* may enjoy the full liberty and freedom of all Aſſemblies and power of Kirk cenſures, and of all the ordinances of *Jeſus Chriſt* according to the rule of his own word, and that whatſoever is commanded by the God of Heaven, may be diligently done for the houſe of the God of Heaven. And what ever heretofore hath been the ſuggeſtions of ſome to him, to render his Majeſty jealous of his Parliament, and of the ſervants of God; yet as he hath declared, that in *Scotland* he wil hearken to their Counſel, and follow their advice in thoſe things that concern that Kingdom and Kirk; So doth he alſo Declare his firm reſolution to mannage the government of the Kingdom of *England*, by the advice of his Parliament, conſiſting of an

House of Lords, and of an House of Commons there, and in those things that concern Religion to preferre the counsels of the Ministers of the Gospel, to all other Counsels whatsoever; And that all the world may see how much he tenders the safety of his people, aud how precious their blood is in his sight, and how desirous he is to recover his Crown and Government in *England* by peaceable means, as he doth esteem the service of those who first engaged in the Covenant, and have since that time faithfully followed the ends thereof, to be duty to God, and Loyalty to him; So is he willing in regard of others, who have been involved in these late Commotions in *England* against Religion and Government, to passe an Act of Oblivion, Excepting onely some few in that Nation, who have been chief obstructers of the work of Reformation, and chief Authours of the change o the Government, and of the Murther of hi Royall Father; Provided, that these who ar

to have the benefit of this Act lay downe Arms, and return unto the obedience of their lawfull Soveraign.

The Committee of Estates of the Kingdome, and Generall Assembly of the Kirk of *Scotland*, having declared so fully in what concerns the Sectaries, and the present designs, resolutions, and actings of their Army against the kingdome of *Scotland*, and the same Committee and Assembly having sufficiently layd open publick dangers and duties both upon the right hand, and upon the left, It is not needfull for his Maiesty to adde any thing thereunto, except that in those things he doth Commend and Approve them, and that he resolves to live and die with them and his loyall Subiects, in prosecution of the Ends of the Covenant.

And whereas that Prevailing party in England after all their strange usurpations, and insolent actings in that Land, do not only keep his Maiesty from the Government of

that

that Kingdom by force of Arms, but alſo have now invaded the Kingdom of *Scotland*, who have deſerved better things at their hands, and againſt whom they have no iuſt quarrel, His Maieſty doth therefore deſire and expect that all his good Subiects in *England*, who are and reſolve to be faithfull to God, and to their King according to the Covenant, will lay hold upon ſuch an opportunity, and uſe their utmoſt endeavours to promove the Covenant and all the Ends thereof, and to recover and re-eſtabliſh the Ancient Government of the Kingdom of *England* (under which for many Generations it did flouriſh in Peace and Plenty at home, and in reputation abroad) and priviledges of the Parliament, and Native and iuſt liberty of the People. His Maieſty deſires to aſſure himſelf that there doth remain in theſe ſo much confidence of their duty to Religion, their King and Countrey, and ſo many ſparkles of the ancient *Engliſh* valour

vour, which ſhined ſo eminently in their noble anceſtors, as will put them on to beſtirre themſelves for breaking the yoke of thoſe mens oppreſsions from off their necks. Shall men of conſcience and honour ſet Religion, Liberties and Government at ſo low a rate, as not rather to undergoe any hazard, before they be thus deprived of them? will not all generous men count any death more tolerable then to live in ſervitude all their dayes? and will not poſterity blame thoſe who dare attempt nothing for themſelves, and for their children, in ſo good a cauſe, in ſuch an exigent? VVhereas if they gather themſelves, and take courage, putting on a reſolution anſwerable to ſo noble and juſt an enterpriſe, they ſhall honour God, and gain themſelves the reputation of pious men, worthy Patriots, and loyall Subjects, and be called the repairers of the breach, by the preſent and ſucceeding generations; and they may certainly promiſe to themſelves a bleſ-

sing from God upon so just and honourable undertaking for the Lord and for his cause, for their own liberties, their native King and country, and the unvaluable good and happinesse of the posterity. What ever hath formerly been his Majesties guiltinesse before God, and the bad successe that these have had who owned his affairs, whilst he stood in opposition to the work of God, yet the state of the question being now altered, and his Majesty having obtained mercy to be on Gods side, and to preferre Gods interest before his own, he hopes that the Lord will be gracious and countenance his own cause, in the hands of weak and sinfull instruments against all enemies whatsoever. This is all that can be said by his Majesty at present to these in *England* and *Ireland* at such a distance: And as they shall acquit themselves at this time in the active discharge of their necessary duties, so shall they be accepted before God, endeared to

his

his Majesty, and their names had in remembrance throughout the VVorld. *Given at our Court at* Dumfermline *the sixteenth day of* August, 1650. *And in the second yeare of our Reign.*

1650
Aug: 16

A Declaration
in the King's
Name to his
Subjects of the
8 Kingdoms;
which, as appears
by the Paper
of the Committee
he refused to
subscribe

Q

~~I believe~~ the afterwards
signed it —